

What is claimed is:

Claim 1: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, telecommunications means to link the onboard web server with the internet, and onboard telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of external computer controlled devices;

wherein the mobile robot, under control by commands sent over the internet, travels into the vicinity of one or more of the external computer controlled devices and establishes a bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with the external device.

Claim 2: The robot of claim 1, in which the radio link from the robot to the external computer device is used to power the external device, and the external device returns a digital signal to the robot.

Claim 3: The robot of claim 1, in which the external device is a radio frequency identification tag.

Claim 4: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, telecommunications means to link the onboard web server with the internet, and onboard telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of non internet connected external computer controlled devices;

wherein the mobile robot, under control by commands sent over the internet, travels into the vicinity of one or more of the external computer controlled devices and establishes a direct bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with the external device.

Claim 5: The robot of claim 4, in which the radio link from the robot to the external computer device is used to power the external device, and the external device returns a digital signal to the robot.

Claim 6: The robot of claim 4, in which the external device is a radio frequency identification tag.

Claim 7: A mobile robot with an onboard web server, telecommunications means to link the onboard web server with the internet, and onboard telecommunications means to establish additional short-range bi-directional digital radio links with a plurality of non internet connected external computer controlled devices;

said devices selected from the group of memory caches and environmental sensors;

wherein the mobile robot, under control by commands sent over the internet, travels into the vicinity of one or more of the external computer controlled devices and establishes a direct bi-directional, short-range, digital radio link with the external device.

Claim 8: The robot of claim 7, in which the radio link from the robot to the external computer device is used to power the external device, and the external device returns a digital signal to the robot.

Claim 9: The robot of claim 7, in which the external device is a radio frequency identification tag.